

**TESTIMONY OF GREG BLANKENSHIP
BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS**

March 5, 2015

Good Afternoon. My name is Greg Blankenship. I am the Director of Billing for Calloway Laboratories, Inc. located in Woburn, MA. Calloway Laboratories provided service to over 3,700 patients in Connecticut during 2014. On behalf of Calloway Laboratories, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to express our opposition to laboratory fee cuts that are being proposed in the Governor's Budget Recommendations For Human Services Programs.

Connecticut has seen an increase in incidence of drug abuse and overdoses, as has the rest of New England. Attached please find outlined some statistics specific to Connecticut.

Urine drug testing is an integral part of the treatment program for addiction. As we discussed, much like sugar testing on diabetics, urine drug testing monitors the progress of an addiction treatment program. We test for both the absence of illicit substances as well as the presence of prescribed substances (such as methadone or suboxone).

Connecticut has significantly reduced reimbursements for urine drug testing services, which may impact access and availability of these services to the population at greatest need. In urine drug testing, we perform an initial screen to determine the presence or absence of a drug. If a drug is positive, we will then confirm the substance, determining the specific drug analyte and quantify the amount of the substance. Some examples of the reimbursement reductions are outlined below:

	<u>2014 rates</u>	<u>2015 rate</u>	<u>Reduction</u>
Screening for drugs	\$38.00	\$17.79	53%
Confirmation of amphetamines	\$24.18	\$9.16	62%
Confirmation of methadone	\$41.18	\$15.60	62%
Confirmation of opiates	\$49.08	\$18.58	62%

We ask that you please restore these proposed cuts to ensure access and availability of these critical services to these patients. Thank you.